70 Collier Street
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City of Barrie

Final

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 8, 2022 | **4:00 PM** | **Virtual Meeting**

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Community Safety Committee on December 19, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, C. Kenwell 4:02 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 6 - Chairman C. Kenwell
Councillor R. Thomson
M. Francis
C. Moran
H. Morgan
L. Pope

Absent: 1 - D. Taylor

STAFF:
Abilities Management and Accessibility Specialist, C. Dillon
Committee Support Clerk, T. Maynard
Project Controls Manager, G. King.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

PRESENTATION CONCERNING MAKING PUBLIC SPACES ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE FOR HARD OF HEARING RESIDENT

Stephanie Brown of the Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) Group provided a presentation concerning Removing Communication Barriers for Hard of Hearing Community Members Across Ontario.

Ms. Brown provided a background of the organization and discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association statistics and facts about hearing loss in Canada;
- The difference between perfect and impaired hearing loss;
- The national awareness campaign “Get in the Hearing Loop” to promote and educate about the use of hearing loops;
- The definition and purpose of hearing loops;
- An illustration depicting hearing loops technology for large event areas;
- An illustration depicting the use of hearing loops for service counters;
- The benefits and consideration related to the use of hearing loops;
- Illustrations depicting large area loop deployments by the HAT Group;
- The assistive technology comparison between induction loop technology, infrared technology, and RF technology; and
- The services provided by the Hearing Assistance Technology Group.

Members of the Committee asked questions of Ms. Brown and received responses.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER SURVEY AND OPEN HOUSE CONSULTATION

Graeme King, Project Controls Manager introduced himself and provided details of the responsibilities and duties of both him and his department concerning design, construction, and the types of open houses for public to provided input on projects and how it affects them. Mr. King asked the Committee for suggestions for more accessible ways to conduct public open houses, to inform about up coming projects, completing surveys, meeting locations, and other accommodations.

The Committee discussed the use of a hybrid model, alternatives to doing surveys and ways to obtain feedback, alternative types of open houses, and provided suggestions, such as signage to navigate through project areas.

STOPGAP DISCUSSION

Cheryl Dillon, Abilities and Accessibilities Management Specialist provided context and background concerning bringing the StopGap ramp system to downtown Barrie businesses. Ms. Dillon indicated that temporary ramps are intended to be placed at entrances during business hours, removed daily and are made from wood. She advised that space and safety concerns would prevent the installation of permanent ramp structures at certain locations.

The Committee discussed the StopGap ramp system further, the current difficulties to enter businesses downtown, the StopGap ramp system going beyond the scope of the Committees mandate, and support and interest from the Downtown Barrie Business Improvement Area (BIA).

PARKS PLANNING UPDATE

Cheryl Dillon, Abilities and Accessibility Management Specialist on behalf of Kevin Bradley, Manager of Parks Planning provided an update concerning the St. Vincent Park Play Space and the Painswick Park Redevelopment Project and Pickleball Facility.

Ms. Dillon advised that St. Vincent Park Play Space construction is expected to be completed in 2022 and ready for use in 2023. She mentioned that St. Vincent Park Play Space will include a wheelchair accessible swing.

Ms. Dillon explained that construction of the Painswick Park Redevelopment and Pickleball Facility has commenced. She mentioned that the Pickleball Facility will include two accessible sized courts that are part of the eight new courts being added to the space, accessible parking, asphalt pathways with lighting, and is expected to be completed in 2023.

BRADFORD STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Cheryl Dillon, Abilities Accessibility Management Specialist provided an update on behalf of Brett Gratrix, Senior Project Manager of Transportation concerning the Bradford Street Reconstruction Project. Ms. Dillon indicated that staff in Development Services will be scheduling a third public information meeting concerning the Bradford Street Reconstruction Project to present the preferred design alternatives and that details about the meeting will be available on the City's website.

Ms. Dillon suggested that virtual options for public information meeting would be beneficial to members of public and would allow for ease of accessibility.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN